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# Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

**Summary record of the 23rd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 26 April 2002 at 10 a.m.

*Chairperson:* Ms. Korpi (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Finland)

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*In the absence of Mr. Agam (Malaysia), Ms. Korpi (Finland), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

**Agenda item 89: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects** (*continued*) (A/56/863, A/C.4/56/L.20)

1. **The Chairperson** recalled that by its resolution 56/225, the General Assembly had decided that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and should review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in that field. Those proposals were contained in paragraphs 45 to 155 of the Special Committee's report, contained in document A/56/863.

2. **Mr. Issa** (Egypt), speaking as Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, introduced the report of the Special Committee, which provided a narrative account of its general debate and presented its proposals, recommendations and conclusions. The report emphasized the guiding principles that remained essential for peacekeeping operations: consent of the parties, non-use of force and impartiality. It welcomed the establishment of a mechanism for strengthening cooperation between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries.

3. He drew attention to the recommendations contained in the report beginning with paragraph 45, and made special mention of the proposal to pay tribute to the men and women who had served and continued to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations by designating May 29 as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

4. **Mr. Ahsan** (Bangladesh) said that, although the report had enjoyed consensus in the Special Committee, paragraph 90 in the final version differed from the text endorsed by his delegation.

5. **Mr. Issa** (Egypt) said that the changes had been made in line with United Nations editing practices and in no way altered the meaning of the paragraph.

6. **Mr. Qian** Bo (China) said that even minor editorial changes to the text should have been communicated to members in advance.

7. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal) said that his delegation wished to express its reservations regarding paragraph 85; the final version did not FULLY reflect his delegation's views. However, it would not block consensus on the report.

*Draft resolution A/C.4/56/L.20/Rev.1*

8. **Mr. Issa** (Egypt) introduced draft resolution A/C.4/56/L.20/Rev.1 and drew attention to the deletion of paragraph 7 of the original draft, which had been made redundant by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/225, by which the General Assembly had already decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects". He also noted that the draft resolution had no further programme budget implications.

9. *Draft resolution A/C.4/56/L.20/Rev.1 was adopted.*

10. **Mr. Guéhenno** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) said that a successful reform of peacekeeping operations was founded on transparency and partnership between Member States and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The report of the Special Committee represented a strong statement of support and guidance to the Department and was yet another manifestation of the will of Member States to ensure that the United Nations continued to be a viable peacekeeping tool for the international community.

11. **Mr. Yoshikawa** (Japan) said that his delegation welcomed the excellent relationship between Governments and the Department. It looked forward to a report at the fifty-seventh session on how the recommendations for a closer working relationship between the Special Committee and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee were being implemented.

**Completion of the Committee's work**

12. **The Chairperson** declared that the Special Political and Decolonization Committee had completed its work for the fifty-sixth session.

*The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.*